

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 6,573,905 to MacInnis, et al.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...coefficient setting means for setting a blending coefficient α ($0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$) for each of a plurality of specific picture elements of a first image to at a specified value,

wherein the specified value is proportional to a value of a specific picture element component of the plurality of specific picture elements of the first image included in

picture element components A of the first image when said value of the specific picture element is not zero,

wherein said specified value is set to zero when said value of the specified picture element is zero; and

arithmetic means for performing an operation on each of said picture element components A, and each of a plurality of picture element components B of a second image in accordance with the specified value of each of said blending coefficients α ..." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 6,573,905 to MacInnis, et al. (hereinafter, merely "MacInnis") relates to a video and graphics system that receives graphics from memory. The graphics data defines multiple graphics layers and processing elements process two or more graphics layers in parallel to generate blended graphics.

Applicant submits that Column 110, lines 35-56 of MacInnis, disclose one of four methods for alpha derivation. This method sets alpha to 0 when a comparison is positive, otherwise alpha is set to 1. Applicants submit that this method is not setting alpha to a value proportional to a value of a specific picture element component.

Therefore, such disclosure does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully disagree with the argument of the Advisory Action. Applicants submit that dependent claim 4 is consistent with independent claim 1 and adds further limitations to independent claim 1. It does not, however, render claim 1 unpatentable.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in MacInnis that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that MacInnis fails to teach coefficient setting means for setting a blending coefficient α ($0 < \alpha < 1$) for each of a plurality of specific picture elements of a first image to at a specified value, wherein the

specified value is proportional to a value of a specific picture element component of the plurality of specific picture elements of the first image included in picture element components A of the first image when said value of the specific picture element is not zero, wherein said specified value is set to zero when said value of the specified picture element is zero; and arithmetic means for performing an operation on each of said picture element components A, and each of a plurality of picture element components B of a second image in accordance with the specified value of each of said blending coefficients α , as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 7, which recites similar features, is also believed to be allowable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

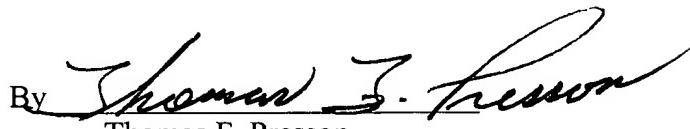
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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